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SUBJ: U.S. - CHINA MILITARY-TO-MILITARY PROGRAM

SUMMARY: Military-to-military relations focused on **transparency, reciprocity, mutual respect and understanding** are **vital** to U.S. engagement strategy. A system of routine contacts can weather Sino-U.S. disagreements in other areas.

KEY POINTS

* Urge **counterpart visits** and PLA participation in **multinational symposia**
* Ship visits, to include continuing **Hong Kong** port calls, are opportune contacts
* We support bilateral PASSEX, SAREX, and humanitarian/disaster relief exercises
* Functional visits focusing on mutual learning will forge stronger relationship·

DISCUSSION

* Encourage expanded Chinese participation in **multinational symposia**
   ** USCINCPAC sponsored: Asia-Pacific Center; Logistics Seminar; Mil Ops and Law
   ** USARPAC: Pacific Armies Management Seminar; Military Medical Conference
   ** PACAF: Airmen's Symposium; Pacific Rim Air Doctrine Symposium
   ** PACFLT: Operational Medical Symposium; International Seapower Symposium

* **Continuing USN** ship visits following **Hong Kong's** reversion will significantly increase routine U.S.-China mil-to-mil contact

* Reciprocal ship visits as PRC deems appropriate can also be offered again

* Bilateral PASSEX, SAREX or humanitarian/disaster relief exercise should be conducted with PRC
   ** Anticipate China MOD visit to U.S. and Hawaii in Dec. will further mil to mil opportunities
   ** OSD has proposed to PLA that bilat exercise be conducted in 1998
   ** **USCINCPAC counterpart** visit to Hawaii likely in Spring 1997
   ** China likely to accept offer to send small technical team (Jan 97) to explain generic USN ship visit procedures

* Functional visits focusing on **mutual** learning will forge **stronger relationship**

BOTTOM LINE: Many activities to productively routinize the U.S.-China mil-to-mil relationship are possible.   Stronger mil-to-mil relationships with China will better secure peace and prosperity in the Pacific.

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